

Contents

1. The Problem	1
1.1 The polysemy of the term “euangelion”	1
1.2 The link between the oral and the literary gospel	3
2. The Pre-Pauline Easter Gospel	5
2.1 The Three Formulae	5
2.1.1 Salvation from the “wrath of God”	5
2.1.2 Death and resurrection	7
2.1.3 Jesus Christ the Lord	9
2.1.4 A survey of the formulae	10
2.1.5 Conclusions	11
2.2 The Gospel and Myth	14
2.2.1 Apocalyptic myth	14
2.2.2 Interpreting myth	17
2.3 The Gospel and Christian Liturgy	19
2.3.1 The death and resurrection of Jesus and baptism ..	19
2.3.2 Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ as a new phenomenon	20
2.4 The Resurrection	21
2.4.1 Terminology and theology	21
2.4.2 Resurrection and the Last Judgment	23
2.4.3 Apocalyptic vision as a world concept	24
2.4.4 Theological function of the apocalyptic imagery: Interpreting the resurrection I	25
2.4.5 Shortcomings of the apocalyptic paradigm	28
2.4.6 The Christian transformation of apocalyptic imagery ..	30
2.4.7 A miracle? Interpreting the resurrection II	32
2.4.8 Resurrection and testimony: Interpreting the resurrection III	38
2.4.9 Revelation: Interpreting the resurrection IV	39
2.5 Euangelion	41
2.5.1 Lexical problems	41
2.5.2 The noun “euangelion”	43
2.5.3 Sequence in history	45
2.5.4 The “doubled” eschatology	48

3. The Gospel of Jesus	51
3.1 Jesus proclaimed the gospel – an early tradition	51
3.2 The prophecy in Isa 61:1 ff. and the self-understanding of Jesus	55
4. The Pauline Gospel	57
4.1 EUANGELION in Pauline Theology	57
4.1.1 Paul as seen by liberal researchers	57
4.1.2 Paul as servant of the gospel	58
4.1.3 The incarnation and death of Jesus as the basis of human hope	58
4.2 Paul and the Jesus Traditions	60
4.2.1 Was Paul reluctant to quote the words of Jesus?	60
4.2.2 The reasons for Paul's reluctance	64
4.2.3 The religious situation	66
4.2.4 The problem of Christian prophecy	69
4.2.5 The absence of narratives about Jesus in Paul	70
4.2.6 An inner analogy between Paul and the narratives about Jesus	73
4.3 Social Background	76
4.4 “Good news” in Deutero-Pauline Texts	78
4.4.1 The prospect	79
5. The Survival of the Jesus Traditions before Mark	81
5.0 The general character of the Jesus traditions	81
5.1 Reconstruction in retrospect	83
5.1.1 Jesus traditions that survived in the liturgy	83
5.1.2 Transformations of the Jesus tradition before Mark	88
5.2 Fragmentary Testimonies of Jesus Traditions outside of Mark	90
5.2.1 The Synoptic tradition in the Apostolic Fathers and in the Gospel of Thomas	91
5.2.2 Only a few traces of the narratives of Jesus in the Apostolic Fathers	94
5.2.3 The Passion Story	96
5.2.4 Mark and source Q	99
5.2.5 Special Sources of Luke and Matthew	104
5.2.6 The written texts	104

6.	The Gospel in the Gospel according to Mark	107
6.1	A New Literary (Sub)Genre	107
6.1.1	Biography	108
6.1.2	Material and structuring: Editor or author?	112
6.1.3	The literary structure	115
6.1.4	The problem of the ending	116
6.2	The Gospel (<i>euangelion</i>) as the Overarching Concept which Structures the Gospel of Mark	118
6.2.1	Pauline influence	118
6.2.2	The beginning and the ending of the Gospel	121
6.3	Christological Titles and the Messianic Secret	129
6.3.1	The Son of God and other titles	130
6.3.2	The Messianic Secret	136
6.3.3	Life of the messianic people	139
6.4	Jesus as Determining Element of the Christian Proclamation	141
6.4.1	Believe in the gospel	142
6.4.2	Turning back to the time of Jesus	144
6.5	Interpreting the Normative Past	148
6.5.1	The “Good News” of the Passion Story	148
6.5.2	“Earthing” the sacraments in Mark	154
6.5.3	By-products of the Markan concept of the Gospel	159
7.	The other canonical Gospels	161
7.1	The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles	164
7.2	The Gospel of Matthew	169
7.3	The Gospel of John	173
8.	Early Christian Literature and Canonization	177
8.1	The Gospel as a book	177
8.2	The use of the term “euangelion” in the Apostolic Fathers	178
8.3	Early evidence for texts about Jesus in canonised additions in the Gospels of John and Mark	182
8.4	Written Gospels	184
8.5	The titles of the Gospels	186
8.6	Non-canonical Gospels	191
9.	Conclusions	195
9.1	The gospel in Jesus and Paul	195
9.2	Mark	196

9.3 Other canonical Gospels and the beginnings of the Christian canon	197
Bibliography	199
Sources in Critical Editions (chronological sequence)	199
Secondary Literature (alphabetical sequence)	200
Abbreviations	217
General Index	220
Index of References to the Bible and other Ancient Writings ...	226